

**Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Education Focus Committee
Monday, June 11, 2012
Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL**

Members Present

Jerry Snodgrass, Chair
Don Beisiegel
Lee Bunting
Tom Byers
Don Kautz
Jim Todd
Randy Molitoris

Advisors Present

Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Marty McManus, IDoA
Joe Bybee, IDoA
Valerie Keener, IDNR
Sue Davis, AC
Debbie Ruff, EC
Renee Weitekamp, AC

#1 – Call to Order - Chairman Jerry Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm on June 11, 2012.

#2 – Roll Call - Introductions were made by all in attendance.

#3 – Approve Agenda – No additions or corrections were made.

#4- Approve Minutes – Motion by Terry Bogner. Second by Randy Molitoris. MCVV.

#5 – IDNR Report

- Valerie Keener, IDNR reported that more Field Trip Backpacks had been put together and had been placed in more locations throughout Illinois.
- The Biodiversity Field Trip Grants continue to go well. This year there was a record number of applications.
- ENTICE workshop are ready to go, but will not be advertised until the Illinois budget is known.

#6 – IDOA Report

- Marty McManus reported that a new staff person will be working with Steve Chard.

#7 – NRCS Report – None

#8 – Director Training Task Force - Chairman Snodgrass reported that the training will be implemented at this year's Summer Conference. Some "senior" SWCD Directors will be assisting with the training.

#9 — Envirothon Task Force – Task Force Chair, Terry Bogner reported that another successful Illinois Envirothon had taken place. Triad High (Council 12) will be representing Illinois at the Canon Envirothon which will be in Pennsylvania. 2nd went to Midland High (Council 2) and third was awarded to Morris (Council 3).

A discussion was held to hear some concerns that were voiced about having the FFA teams in attendance. The issue was that an FFA team that was the 1st place team at the local competition did not want to compete in the second day of the Illinois Envirothon. This concern will be brought forward to the IL Envirothon coordinators.

Rich Nichols told the FAC that he had contacted Grundy County and they are interested in continuing on as the Illinois Envirothon Coordinator. A motion was made by Lee Bunting, with second by Terry Bogner to recommend to the AISWCD Board that Grundy County maintain the Illinois Envirothon Coordinator position. MCVV.

#10 – Old Business

- Specialized License Plates – Renee Weitekamp, AC from Champaign County provided information on the plates for conservation. She had an artist draft of a plate design which she shared with the group. Renee also displayed a possible license plate holder. She reminded the FAC that 1500 plates must be ordered in order for this program to go forward. Renee passed out applications to all in attendance and offered her assistance to any SWCD who wanted further information.
- McKibben Scholarship – The committee reviewed all ten scholarship applications. After reviewing each application and discussion, Edward Joseph Ehrhardt from Emington was selected by consensus.

#11 - New Business

- OMA Training – A discussion on the status of the bill to allow OMA training take place during a Board meeting was held. Chairman Snodgrass stated that the bill did not get called for a vote. There is a chance that it may be passed during a special session, but more likely will be brought up during the Fall veto session.
- Lee Bunting provided a brief update on the CTIC Conservation Tour that will be held in Livingston County on Tuesday, July 10th. All are invited to attend. Bunting also stated that the Indian Creek Watershed Project has been selected to be the tour site for the 2012 CTIC Conservation In Action Tour. A date has not been set.

#12 - Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Byers. Second by Randy Molitoris. MCVV. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Debra Ruff, AC Livingston County SWCD